

Message Text

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22-11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-10 IGA-02 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8998

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 0027

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, WZ, BC, LT

SUBJECT: FY 1977 AID PROGRAM FOR BLS COUNTRIES

REF: MBABANE 0022

1. OSARAC IS SUBMITTING TO AID/WASHINGTON THIS WEEK MATERIAL FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION CONTAINING ITS PROPOSED BY 1977 GRANT PROGRAM. IN REVIEWING THIS SUBMISSION WITH THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPOSED GRANT PROGRAM REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OVER FY 1976 LEVELS FOR THE BLS STATES OF APPROXIMATELY \$2.9 MILLION WITH THE MAJOR INCREASES GOING TO SWAZILAND (\$1.7 MILLION) AND LESOTHO (\$1.0 MILLION). THIS DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT ASSISTANCE ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE PRIORITIES THAT SHOULD FOLLOW AS REWARD FOR RECENT POLITICAL SUPPORT BY THESE GOVERNMENTS ON UN ISSUES OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO U.S.. INCREASE ALSO ESSENTIAL ACHIEVE OTHER MAJOR POLICY OBJECTIVES AS EXPLAINED REFTTEL.

2. THE AID OFFICERS HERE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE RECOMMENDED PROGRAM LEVELS MAY BE REDUCED RATHER SHARPLY IN WASHINGTON SINCE THEY ARE WELL ABOVE THE OYB FIGURES THEY HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN. I HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY THE AID PERSONNEL THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGETS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY REVIEWED AND TRIMMED TO THE ESSENTIAL

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LEVELS FOR EFFECTIVE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. SINCE ANY FURTHER

CUTS ARE LIKELY TO BE AT THE EXPENSE OF NEW OR REVISED PROJECTS
IN SWAZILAND AND LESOTHO WHICH LARGELY ACCOUNT FOR THE ABOVE
NOTED INCREASES, I STRONGLY URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SUPPORT
APPROVAL OF THE PROGRAM AT THE REQUESTED LEVEL. OTHERWISE OUR
RECENT DEMARCHES STRESSING UN VOTING RECORD WOULD BE FACTOR IN
BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE IF ANY MEANING.
BOLEN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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